



Clan Macpherson Association (Australian Branch)



Website www.clan-macpherson.org

April 2022 Newsletter

2022 Annual Gathering and AGM

Planning is complete for the 2022 Annual Gathering. The programme, costs and a registration form are at the back of Creagh Dhubh No 74. (See pages 71-76)

NOTE. The decision, 'go/no go' will be made on 15th May and will be notified to members by e-mail after advice is received from Scotland. Those members not on e-mail will be phoned by an Australian Branch Committee member.

Recent Activity

A Clan Macpherson tent was mounted at Croydon Vic, on 29th March. The tent planned for Bundanoon NSW on 2nd April did not 'get up' due to poor weather.



Sisters Joanne and Irene Gillies in front of the Clan tent with our Clan Banner and David J McPherson

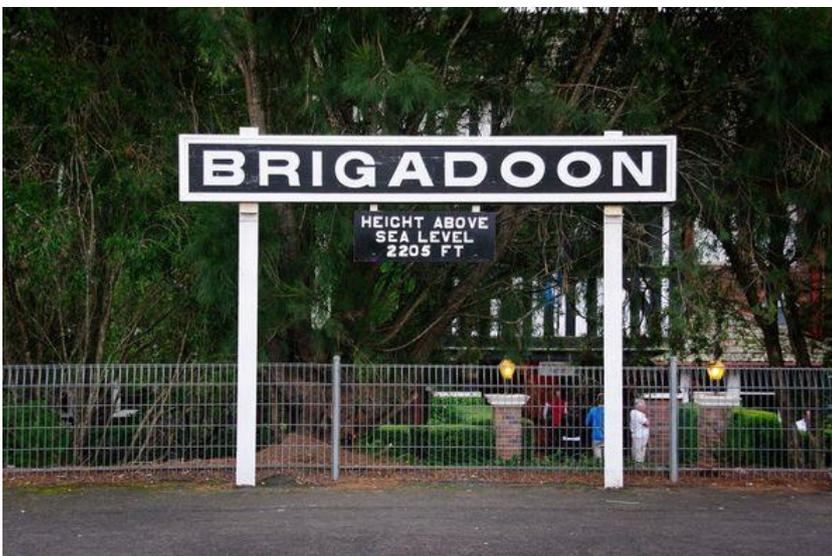
Melbourne Highland Games & Celtic Festival Croydon

After a two year gap, the event formerly known as the Ringwood Highland Games were held on 20th March 2022 at Eastfield Park Croydon; a rather large and open sports playing arena. The day was warm and humid and a crowd of about one thousand attended early in the day before it got quite warm and uncomfortable. The Clan Macpherson tent joined a dozen or more Clans, unfortunately a fair distance from the Games and band activities. Quite a few visitors made enquiries about family

names, sometimes not related to Macpherson but interested in the “Touch Not the Cat But a Glove” motto. Some had parents and or grandparents with a Macpherson connection and many were given the October 2021 Newsletter and advised to follow up on the CMA website and Facebook pages.

A notable visitor was the Hon. Ted Baillieu (formerly Premier of Victoria) and his wife Robyn who chatted for some time and browsed through the display book Christina’s (Waltzing) Matilda. Mr Baillieu’s grandmother Diana Baillieu was a great niece of Christina Macpherson who provided the music to the words of the well known *Waltzing Matilda* written by one of Australia’s best known poets Banjo (AB) Patterson.

Bundanoon is Brigadoon



Postponed to
6th August 2022
Tickets bought for 2nd April will be honoured.

Memorabilia for the Museum

Included with donations to the Museum listed on 67 & 68 of Creag Dhubh, a Mameluke sword was held back for investigation. See Aust Branch Newsletter of October 2021. Thought to have been one of many swords saved in the sale of Cluny Castle artifacts in 1943, the sword bears a coat of arms that almost mirrors the Chief’s Arms. In addition, the maker’s name is most obvious, (SJ Pillin, 4 Gerard St SOHO London). There are several marks (etchings) that are being reviewed, including a stylised St Edward’s crown. This could indicate acquisition during the reign of Queen Victoria given the custom that swords usually carry the cypher of the ruling monarch. The sword blade is in remarkably good condition given its age, while the brass scabbard has suffered a few minor dents, and some inappropriate use of Brasso.

A second offer of items in the custody of Ian Stuart Macpherson of Moss Vale NSW included four swords; three broadswords thought to have been recovered from the 1943 sale at Cluny Castle. The fourth, an infantry officer’s sword bearing

the Cypher of King George V, is thought to have belonged to Ian Stuart's father, Major Ian Fyfe Macpherson MC, brother of Major Allan Stewart Macpherson, MC.

One of the three broadswords, not in good condition, is described as *'Very rare Scottish Claymore which was used by the Covanantor Muir of Cairn, New Cumnock, Ayrshire at the Battle of Drumclog, 1679'*. The report continues, *'The spelling Andreia Farara (on the blade) is very rare, and the motto Soli Dio Gloria is seldom found on Scottish swords. From the Dalziel Collection.'* The blade bears a sticker certifying the antiquity of the sword and the Invoice issued by Muirhead Moffat & Co, of Glasgow, is signed to that effect (over 100 years old in 1944) on 29th February 1949.

Reopening the Museum. 1st -3rd April

Angus Macpherson, Convenor, of the Clan Macpherson Museum recently sought the assistance of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch thus;

"To launch the 2022 open season to an exciting start and celebrate what has been achieved over the last two years, an 'Opening Weekend' spread over 3 days, 1st – 3rd April, will take place. Its aims are... to tell the local community that the Museum is open and not only encourage but also welcome them into the Clan's beautiful new home; encourage that community to become involved with the Museum and give Aila Schaefer, our new Curator, an opportunity to meet the local community. It will involve tours, artefact handling, children's activities, raffle, tea and cakes. On the first evening there will be 'late' opening to 22.00. To get both Aila and this season off to a flying start we are looking for support ... from volunteers on all days as well as setting up on 1st April. ... could I encourage you to not only consider coming to the opening but also ... contact Aila on museum@clan-macpherson.org to offer your time and skills Aila will be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you so much for your support.

Photos taken at the Musuem Opening



James Brodie Macpherson, 28th Chief, and family.



Aila Schaefer (L), the new Clan Museum Curator and former CMA Chairman Shelagh Macpherson-Noble at the case displaying the large Epergne or Candelabrum which stands at 4ft high. It is in the form of a tree, under which is the equestrian figure of a General offering Cluny of the '45 payment for holding his horse, the whole resting on a massive rustic base on

an ebonised plinth, with heavy oak iron-bound chest. The Candelabrum is said to be made of 700 ounces of silver. It was bought for the Clan in the Sale of Historical Relics from Cluny Castle on 3rd May 1943 for 140 guineas. (At today's spot prices for silver, value is GBP13,762).



On loan from Museum Victoria, this flintlock pistol is thought to be one of a pair of pistols once owned by 17th Chief Duncan of the Kiln. Made by T. Murdock of Leith, c1785 it has 'Cluny Macpherson' engraved on one oval shaped lozenge on the handle and the War Cry 'Creag Dhubh' on the other side. Bought for the Clan in the May 1943 Sale for a

price of GBP26 for the pair. The whereabouts of the second pistol remains a mystery. Extensive research indicates that the display pistol arrived in Australia, possibly in the 1960s taking a circuitous route via Canada and the USA.



A view of one of the new displays.



*350th Anniversary
of the Public Register of
All Arms and Bearings
in Scotland 1672 - 2022*

Celebrating 350 years, the Court of the Lord Lyon has taken innovative steps to increase awareness of the role of the Court through the production of YouTube videos, a series of 350th Anniversary lectures and creation of the Lord Lyon Society.

The YouTube videos are recommended to anyone interested in Scottish Heraldry. Sign up to the You Tube channel to preserve it to interested subscribers. Some ten lectures will posted. The YouTube link is at

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCIcm47GM7D7BhsOSo8CzEMw>

The first video is up with more to follow. It is online with optional subtitles built in. Go to <https://youtu.be/WOqJ9pwNtyA>

The Lord Lyon Society was set up by the Lord Lyon, Dr Joe Morrow CBE QC FRSE, to support the Court of the Lord Lyon, and to enliven the promotion of Scots Heraldry. First recorded in the 14th century, it is regarded as originating in the office of the High Seanachaidh to the Monarchs of Celtic Scotland, who was the Royal Poet and the Keeper of the Royal Genealogy. Dr Morrow was installed as Lord Lyon King of Arms in February 2014.



The Society aims to give the Scottish and international public access to this unique collection through the digitisation of Court archives, for which funds will be raised by the Society.

The Court of the Lord Lyon is located within HM New Register House in a key position just off the East end of Princes Street in Edinburgh.

Within the Office is held a vast collection of records relating to heraldry, genealogy and

Scottish history and spanning several centuries. The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland was established in 1672 by the Lyon King of Arms Act of the same year. The Register consists of an ever-growing number of volumes. To date there are around 100 volumes.

The Lord Lyon Society can be found at <https://www.lordlyonsociety.org.uk/>

A short video of a recent sitting of the Court of the Lord Lyon can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAG6vhhRXng>

Full details of the 350th Anniversary Lectures which have been, and will be recorded for later viewing can be found at:

<https://courtofthelordlyon.scot/LyonRegister350set1.pdf>

The National Library of Scotland (NLS) maps website for family history
by Chris Fleet, Map Curator, National Library of Scotland

This brief guide provides an overview of the NLS maps website which covers finding and viewing maps, useful Ordnance Survey (OS) maps for family research, copyright, printouts, copies and images and much more.

The National Library of Scotland's (NLS) Map images website (<https://maps.nls.uk/>) has over a quarter of a million freely available high-resolution maps online, dating from the last four centuries. As you might expect, the focus of the NLS map collections is Scotland, but because the Library is a United Kingdom legal deposit library, it is entitled to receive all UK published mapping, and that means very good holdings of Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales too. In fact, over half of our online maps are Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales, so our website is a useful resource for ancestor-hunting across England, Scotland and Wales.

At first, maps can seem deceptively simple, accessible documents, needing little explanation. However, once one looks in more detail, this apparent simplicity often fades away. Maps are never a direct facsimile of the landscape. For example, in mapping towns and settlements, mapmakers may have selected buildings above a certain size, and ignored those that were small or considered "temporary", or those not flattering the town in the eyes of the audience for whom the map was made. Many town plans were not based on an original survey, but were copied from earlier maps, and their creators may not have included updated building details to reflect what was really there on the ground. In other cases, mapmakers may have shown anticipated or planned developments, but they did not always clearly distinguish these planned developments from buildings already there. It is always useful to consider who made the map, their sources of information, their purpose and their intended audiences, as well as other written sources (if available), to assess how far to trust the details shown on maps.

Newtonmore Highland Games The 2022 Games will be held on Saturday 6th August 2022. A highlight of the Games is the March of Clan Macpherson led by the Chief from Old Ralia onto the Eilan, the home ground of the Newtonmore Shinty Club.

The Newtonmore Games have always been based on tradition and 2022 will be no different. At least four Pipe Bands will take part in a spectacular festival of colour and sound, as well as the heavy events which consist of many varied disciplines of strength and skill.

Highland dancing is another very popular attraction as the dancers perform their

intricate moves to the sound of the pipes. Dancers from all over the world are competing this year. And you will find at the top end of the field lone pipers competing in the Pibroch and Strathspey and Reel; all hoping to please the judges.

Athletes, young and old running sprints and middle distance races, and kids' events are not to be missed.

The Creag Dhubh hill race is a must to watch with runners competing from all over the country.

Checkout the [Video of Highlights of Newtonmore Games](#)

[A pleasant add on to the Clan Macpherson Gathering - All will be welcomed.](#)

**CLAN
CHATTAN
ASSOCIATION**



The Annual Gathering of
The Clan Chattan
Association
4th - 6th August 2022

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner

The Lochardil House Hotel, Inverness

Thursday 4th August 2022

4pm: Gather together. Light refreshments

5pm: The AGM of the Clan Chattan Association

6pm: Pre-dinner welcome drink

7pm: Clan Chattan Association Annual Dinner

2 course buffet dinner and coffee £35

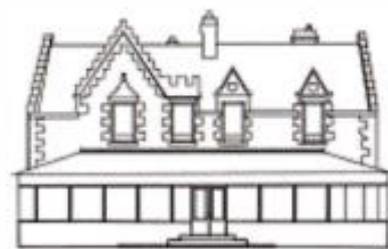
(please let us know of any dietary requirements)

Booking on-line at www.clanchattan.org.uk

For more information, please e-mail association@clanchattan.org.uk

If Booking accommodation at the Lochardil Hotel, quote this event as discounts may be available. E-mail - reservations@lochardil.co.uk

The Lochardil House Hotel



New member

Annual - Robert HG Scott, Leopold Vic

VALE Our condolences are extended to the family of: Heather Joy Tampion (Cranbourne Vic), and Wendy Joan Macpherson (Modbury SA).

Mail (or e-mail) returned to sender.

Merinda Epstein, Altona North Vic

Lachlan McPherson, Belmont Vic

Roderick McPherson, Trentham Vic

The (Australian) Tartan Show on 2RRR 88.5FM

Christine Southcombe (nee McPherson) advises that The Tartan Show can be heard at 6.30pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday nights. As the broadcast is limited, the programme can also be streamed online at <https://2rrr.org.au>

Send any Scottish news to her at christinesouthcombe@outlook.com



The
SCOTTISH VARIANT
At least you can hear it coming.

Activities across the Country

At time of writing, information pertaining to Scottish activities is limited.

2022

4th April, Bundanoon is Brigadoon, Bundanoon (NSW), info 02 4883 7471 or www.brigadoon.org.au
Clan Macpherson Tent. Postponed to 6th August 2022.

17th April, 117th Maclean (NSW) Highland Gathering, Easter weekend in Australia's Scottish Town. info www.macleanhIGHLANDGATHERING.com.au

28th April/1st May, Australian Celtic Festival Glenn Innes (NSW). Featuring Year of Brittany, Cornwall and Wales, info www.australiANCELTICFESTIVAL.com

15th May, Redlands Highland Gathering, Wellington Point (Qld). Info www.PIPEBANDSQLD.com

21/22nd May, The Gathering, Ipswich (Qld) Turf Club. Info www.GATHERINGFESTIVAL.com.au

28th May, Berry (NSW) Celtic Festival, at Berry Showgrounds, info 02 4403 0300 or www.BERRYROTARY.org.au/CELTIC-FESTIVAL

4th June, Bonnie Wingham (NSW) Scottish Festival Highland Games and Fair, info 02 6556 9051
<https://bwsf.zyrosite.com> Clan Donnachaidh (Robertson) will be the Clan of Honour.

Clan Macpherson Tent.

10th June, National Celtic Festival, Portarlington (Vic), info www.NATIONALCELTICFESTIVAL.com

11/12th June, Boonah (Qld), Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular, info 1300 259 343 or www.CLYDESDALESPECTACULAR.com.au

17/19th June, Townsville (Qld) Tartan weekend, info 0413 456 542 or mig7@optusnet.com.au

18th June, Williamstown (Vic) Highland Gathering, info www.MELBOURNEHIGHLANDGAMES.org.au/williamstown-highland-celtic-gathering



2nd July, Aberdeen (NSW) Highland Games, info <https://aberdeenhIGHLANDGAMES.com/programme/>

18/21st August, Scots in the Bush, Boondooma (Qld), info www.boondoomahomestead.org.au

8th October, Canberra Highland Gathering, Kambah (ACT), info www.canberrahIGHLANDGATHERING.com.au
Clan Macpherson Tent.

16th October, Illawarra Scottish Fair, Kanahooka (NSW), info 0422 699 513

Major Neil Macpherson (2nd Ghurkhas)

An article in Creag Dhubh 2020, No 72, titled 'A Highland Postcard' by John Patchett (see page 37) referred to Major Neil Macpherson, one of the Clan members mentioned in the Museum's Great War (World War I) exhibition. Major Neil was killed in action on 31st of October 1914 at Neuve Chappelle while commanding the 2nd Battalion of the 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

Neil was the youngest son of Major General Sir Herbert Taylor Macpherson VC, KCB, KCSI who was awarded the VC while serving with the 78th Highlanders (Ross-Shire Buffs) at Lucknow in 1856. Several descendants of this family, known as the Macphersons of Ardiersier, continue to research their ancestry. Prior to his WWI service, Neil served in the Isazai Expedition, 1892, N.W. Frontier of India; Samana and Tirah, 1897-8; South African Campaign, 1900-2, and Abor Expedition, 1911-12.

Neil is commemorated in the Neuve Chappelle memorial, some 5 kilometres north of La Bassee and 20 kilometres west-south-west of Lille. The Memorial is 800 metres south-west of the village on the east side of the road from La Bassee to Estaires.

A stained glass window in St Barnabas, Beckenham, Kent also commemorates Neil's service and his links with Kent, he being commissioned into the East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) after his graduation from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in June 1890.

Born on 9th 1869, Neil was educated at Inverness College and followed family tradition by joining the army. Routes existed for him to enter Sandhurst whereby the Secretary of State for India had the power annually to nominate, as Queens (Indian) Cadets a small number of candidates. These places were open to sons whose fathers had served in the Indian Army or in the Indian Civil Service. No doubt when he applied, there were few applicants whose father had won a VC in India. He later transferred to the Indian Staff Corps, his motive being to follow in the footsteps of his father.

Service in the Indian Army enabled Neil to afford marriage. His wife Mary was from a military family. Her father was Colonel Robert Home, CB of the Royal Engineers.

In the months leading to the Great War, discussions between the British and Indian governments led to an agreement that if Britain became involved in a European war an Indian expeditionary force would be sent to help. When war was declared, preparations began to send two Indian infantry divisions and a cavalry brigade. The Indian Expeditionary Force played an important role in



shoring up the BEF defences. During the crucial First Battle of Ypres, Neil's battalion arrived at Neuve Chappelle on the night of 29/30th October relieving shattered battalions of the 7th and 9th Brigades in II Corps, a daunting introduction to fighting on the Western Front. By the 31st October, the day that Macpherson was reported killed, the Indian Corps had suffered casualties of 35 British and 19 Indian officers and 1511 other ranks.

The stained glass window is an unostentatious single light of St Michael. The dedication is simple. St Michael is depicted in the window in full mediaeval armour and with the Cross of England on his shield, a much more overtly patriotic symbol, reminding us that in Victorian and Edwardian iconography. St Michael and St George were sometimes indistinguishable. Surrounding the figure, are the Prince of Wales's feathers symbolising Neil's connection to the Simoor Rifles (the King Edward VII's Own).

A unique feature of this window is a mysterious mask of which half is only visible. But it appears to be a familiar prop from Greek tragedy. It strengthened the view that stained glass window memorials often had hidden texts known only to the family and friends. It raises the questions relevant to the opinion held by most commentators that memorialising the Great War using chivalric language and images was evidence that civilians had no understanding of the realities of modern warfare.

(extracted from an article by Michael Durey)

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